

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application and thanks the Examiner for the determination of allowable subject matter specified in the Official Action mailed November 15, 2007. In the Official Action mailed November 15, 2007, the Examiner stated that claims 18, 25-27 and 44-47 were allowed and claims 50-51 and 54-55 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 28, 48 and 52 are amended herein. Claims 49-50 and 53-54 are cancelled. Applicant submits that claims 1, 28, 48 and 52 and the respective dependent claims are patentable and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 48-49 and 52-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,280,615 ("Roberts").

As discussed above, claims 48 and 52 have been amended herein and are submitted to be patentable over the cited prior art, as are the respective dependent claims. Accordingly, claims 48, 51-52 and 55 are submitted to be patentable and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of previously cited U.S. Patent No. 6,618,430 ("Khaleghi").

As discussed above, claims 1 and 28 have been amended herein and are submitted to be patentable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of claims 1, 18, 25-28, 44-48, 51-52 and 55. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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